Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture

Farm@Market REP

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Commissioner's Column

Wishing You **Greener Pastures**

by Jonathan L. Healy

My father used to say that one's greatest strength is also one's greatest weakness, too. I'm afraid that axiom applies to me as well. I've loved being your ag commish. We have accomplished a lot and I thank you all for your great support of Massachusetts agriculture. Since I have cared so much about this job, I haven't been able to do it less than full bore.

My goals for the Department have been the same as my goals managing our family farm, i.e., I am a steward who simply wants to leave things I have touched in better shape than when I found them.

Our Department now has a great farm viability program, an ag business training program that has gotten outstanding reviews from the farm community, and new programs like the agro-tech and environmental enhancement program. We have great, hard-working Department personnel that go the extra mile to help our farmers stay economically viable and environmentally sound.

My thanks to our great Department personnel, the farm community, and the Weld-Cellucci-Swift administrations for allowing me to be your Commissioner. Best wishes to the other nine DFA folks who are also taking early retirement.

I hope to continue working toward keeping Massachusetts and New England farms and forests viable, so I know our paths will cross in the future.

Please keep in touch, especially if I can help you in any way. I can promise you I'm not going to Washington! It's Jay Healy, c/o Hall Tavern Farm, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370. phone is 413-625-9008. E-mail to come sometime soon! My thanks and best to all of you! ◆

Specialty Crop Funding Announced

The Department of Food and Agriculture has selected 17 projects proposed by 15 agricultural groups statewide to receive a share of \$890,000 in funding provided by the USDA's federal agricultural economic assistance package

This Federal assistance is targeted to "specialty crops" which USDA defines as "any agricultural crop, except wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts and tobacco." This can include nonfood crops like nursery, floriculture, or Christmas trees. MDFA is administering the funds through a competitive bid process.

The Department of Food and Agriculture requested proposals that clearly promote Massachusetts agriculture from Bay State agricultural organizations, commodity groups, cooperatives, non-profit organizations, collaboratives, and other entities that directly support agricultural initiatives.

Farmers seeking funding for activities on their own farms were not eligible. The funds are for one year only. Organizations and projects that will receive funding are:

- Berkshire Grown, Great Barrington, \$36,670 for their on-going campaign.
- Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, Wareham, \$211,613 to implement a domestic campaign promoting cranberries, and \$25,887 for a cranberry weevil control program.
- Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), Amherst, \$75,000 for the "Be a Local Hero" campaign.
- Essex Conservation District, Hathorne, \$35,000 to continue the "Buy Fresh" campaign started last year.
- Mass. Aquaculture Association, North Eastham, \$14,827 to market hard shell clams.

- Mass. Flower Growers Association, Littleton, \$110,000 for promotion of locally grown flowers, a video and a manual.
- Mass. Fruit Growers Association, Belchertown, \$40,000 to produce a marketing video and \$35,000 for an apple pest control program.
- Mass. Nursery and Landscape Association, Conway, \$22,003 to develop a pocket guide of native and low-maintenance plants.
- New England McIntosh Growers Association, Hatfield, \$27,500 to implement a marketing program to increase year-round demand for Massachusetts apples.
- New England Small Farm Institute, Belchertown, \$31,500 for their New American Farmers Initiative.
- New England Vegetable and Berry **Growers Association** \$72,000 for new crop research, a pest control program and a marketing
- Open Field Foundation, Amherst, \$15,000 to study the feasibility of creating a milk processing facility in Western Mass..
- Pioneer Valley Growers Association, South Deerfield, \$28,000 to hire a sales consultant and cover transportation costs in marketing Pioneer Valley grown produce.
- Southeastern Mass. Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), West Wareham, \$60,000 for their on-going "buy local" campaign.
- University of Mass., Amherst, \$50,000 to establish a web site promoting fodder crops for livestock.

New Web Address for MDFA

A new Massachusetts state government web "portal" (www.mass.gov) was launched in January and is designed to make it easier for citizens to find information and do business with state government. All state agencies have been asked to adopt a consistent web site URL (uniform resource locator) or address.

The Department of Food and Agriculture's new address is www.mass.gov/dfa. Our consumer marketing site, known as MassGrown, has been integrated into the department's main site and can now be found at www.mass.gov/massgrown.



FARM-CITY CONNECTIONS

Ag in the Classroom Celebrates 20th Anniversary

At its annual meeting in February, Mass. Agriculture in the Classroom celebrated 20 years of service to the agricultural and educational communities. The program began in 1982 with a meeting called by former Agriculture Commissioner Frederic Winthrop, Jr.

Accepting a plaque citing the Department's support and involvement for the past two decades was current Food and Agriculture Commissioner Jay Healy, who serves as an advisory board member.

New board members representing a wide range of interests were introduced: Cynthia Cranston, Cranston's Tree Farm, Ashfield, representing the Mass. Christmas Tree Association, Mary McCaffrey, Spring Rain Farm, East Taunton, representing the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, Kurt Parliment of Leicester, representing Old Sturbridge Village, Tim Skeehan of Russell's Garden Center, Wayland, representing the Mass. Flower Growers' Association.

Re-elected officers were: President, John Lee, Allandale Farm, Brookline, Vice President, Jim Munger, Stoney Meadows Vegetable Farm, South Dartmouth, Vice President, Jerry Myers, Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Secretary, Marjorie Cooper, Cooper's Hilltop Dairy Farm, Rochdale, Farm Bureau.

Representatives of many other agricultural commodities and groups make up the rest of the 33 member board. Twenty-year members recognized were Marjorie Cooper, Henry Hicks representing Mass. Council of Social Studies and Janet Christensen, Mass. Department of Food & Agriculture.

Ag in the Classroom offers curriculum, a resource directory, newsletters, mini-grants, workshops and meetings such as the successful statewide "Growing Minds through Mass. Agriculture" held in Auburn in January.

For more information, visit www.aginclassroom.org or write Ag in the Classroom at P.O. Box 345, Seekonk, MA 02771.

Boston Public Market Continues Search for Site and Funding

Friends of the market, now officially the Boston Public Market Association, are finalizing a development proposal which will be extremely useful in their continuing search for a suitable site for the indoor year-round market. The publication will assist the group in contacting developers and potential funders for the project. For more information on the proposal and progress, contact Janet Christensen, 617-626-1735, or e-mail David.Webber@state.ma.us or gbialecki@hillbarlow.com.

New Ag Mediation Program Announced

The Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution (MODR) has been certified by the USDA's Farm Service Agency to administer an Agricultural Mediation Program for the Commonwealth's farm community.

As a qualifying state under Title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, Massachusetts, through MODR and with input from the Department of Food and Agriculture (MDFA), will address the pressing need for agricultural mediation, both for credit issues and for a host of other problems that arise on a daily basis.

Mediation service for agricultural loans, agricultural credit, farm program compliance, wetlands and other agriculture related issues is a natural extension of MODR's current services to the Massachusetts community.

For over 12 years, MODR has been successfully mediating wetlands, conservation, hazardous waste, land use, coastal access and other environmental disputes affecting the Commonwealth and its citizens. In addition, MODR has extensive

experience mediating banking and commercial loan disputes through its court programs.

Real estate in the Commonwealth is at a premium, notes Commissioner Jay Healy, and farmers and growers are often located in densely populated residential areas.

"Our Department is frequently asked to facilitate disputes between farmers and neighbors, local and state regulators on issues including environmental compliance, zoning, and right-to-farm issues. Using MODR, a trusted and experienced neutral, to assist in this process will be a giant step forward for many longstanding disputes, and for agriculture in general."

Contact MODR Program Coordinator Israela Brill-Cass at 617-727-2224, or Israela.Brill-Cass @state.ma.us, for further information. ◆

Third Annual Statewide Rabies Vaccination Day Planned for April 6

Cities and towns across the Commonwealth will hold low-cost rabies vaccination clinics on Saturday, April 6th as part of the Third Annual Statewide Rabies Vaccination Day. The Department of Food and Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health started this program to raise awareness of rabies and increase compliance with state vaccination laws. All dogs, cats and ferrets living in Massachusetts are required by law to



the vaccination will be about \$10 per animal. Check with your Town or City Hall for the local place, time and cost. A list of participating towns will also be posted on the DFA's web site, at http://www.mass.gov/dfa.

Statewide Rabies Vaccination Day is co-sponsored by the DFA and Mass. Department of Public Health, and in cooperation with the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Mass. Veterinary Medical Association and the Cape Cod Veterinary Association. This year, the Governor will also declare April as Rabies Awareness Month.

ENVIRONMENTAL BRIEFS

Agro-Environmental Technology Grant Program Results

Twenty-Eight proposals were received requesting a total of \$792,279.38 in funding. The funding to be awarded for this program this year is \$111,682. Applicants will be notified in late April about the funding decisions. For further information call the Coordinator, Susan Phinney, at 617-626-1772.

AEEP Program On Hold

A second round of funding for the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program was anticipated and applications were received in October 2001. Unfortunately due to the effects of the Commonwealth's budget cuts, none of the proposals for the second round will be funded. All applicants should have received a letter explaining this situation. It is anticipated that further funding will become available in the late summer at which time an announcement will be made that applications are available. For further information call the Coordinator, Susan Phinney, at 617-626-1772.

AEEP Partners with Coastal Zone Management to Fund Farmers

Federal funds have been awarded to DFA's Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program by the state Coastal Zone Management (CZM) office for five farm projects to improve water quality in coastal watersheds. These projects range from installing manure storage pits on dairy farms to flumes for a cranberry grower. Fencing and above ground fuel storage tanks containers were also funded. These projects will take place in the Cape Cod, Nashua and Parker watersheds. For more information contact Susan Phinney at 617-626-1772. ◆

2002 Farmers' Market Opportunities

The following farmers' markets are seeking vendors for the 2002 season. Please call the contacts below for more information. For general information about selling at farmers' markets, contact David Webber at 617-626-1754 or David.Webber@state.ma.us

Adams: Wednesday, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, all types of vendors. Everett Randall, 413-743-3111.

Arlington: Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm, specialty vendors. Oakes Plimpton, 781-648-5117 (eve.).

Auburn: Saturday, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, fruit and vegetable growers. Ray Samek, 508-867-7363.

Dudley: Town Common/Boston – Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, fruit and specialty growers. Kristin Brennan, 617-442-1322

Fall River: Wednesday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and Saturday, 7:30 am – 12:30 pm, Susan Medeiros, 508-880-1372.

Fitchburg: Tuesday, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm and Friday 8:45 am – 12:00 noon, vegetables. Rachel Gonzalez, 978-544-6063.

Great Barrington: Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, meats, dairy products, eggs, fruit. Christa Stosiek, 518-325-4261.

Hingham: Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, grower with corn. Ted Paquette, 781-749-3444.

Holden Tuesday Evening: Tuesday, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. sweet corn, potatoes, orchard products, bakers and value-added products, vegetables, small fruits. Jacqui Marsh, 978-874-0244.

Ipswich: Saturday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, all types of growers. Bill Walton at 978-356-4622.

Gloucester (proposed): Bill Stevens, 978-283-6776

Greenfield: Saturday: 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. honey and eggs. Peg Pucino, 413-773-8577.

Mass. Turnpike: Thursday – Saturdays, 10:00 am - Dusk, service centers on Mass Pike, including, Lee, Blandford, Ludlow, Charlton, Westboro, Framingham and Natick. All types of farm products. Dave Fenton, 781.431.5192

Marlboro: Thursday, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.. fruit, flowers, plants, crafts. Gaston Gauthier, 508-393-6350

Middleboro: Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, fruit and breads. Donna Blischke, 508-866-9762.

North Adams: Saturday, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon, jams, jellies produce and hand crafted items. Everett Randall, 413-743-3111.

Orleans: Saturday, 8:00am – 12:00 noon, produce, horticultural products and processed foods. Gretel Norgeot, 508-255-8374.

Sheffield: Friday, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, specialty greens, ice cream/dairy products, cheese. June Wolfe, 413-229-2012.

Shrewsbury: Tuesday, 11:00 am - 3:30 pm, specialty items, Andy O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

South End/Boston: Wednesday, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm, organic produce, eggs, honey, maple, cheese, flowers, any specialty items. Linae Handy, 617-437-0999.

Southwick (new): Thursday, 1:00pm – 6:00pm. Diane Johnson, 413-569-3436.

Springfield Cooperative: Saturday, 7:00 am – 11:00 am, fruit, leafy vegetables, prepared foods, vendors with a wide variety of produce. Al Fini, 413-786-1012.

Springfield/Eastfield Mall (new): Thursday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, opens in June. Betty Kibbe, 413-589-8576.

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Sturbridge}: Thursday, $11:00$ am $-3:30$ pm, fruit and specialty items. Andy O'Keefe, 508-753-7761. \end{tabular}$

Taunton: Thursday: 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm, baked goods, herbs, jams and jellies. Antonio Coutinho, 508-880-9363.

Topsfield: Saturday, 7:00 am – 12:00 noon, fruits and vegetables. Jane Cook, 978-922-1648.

Turners Falls: Wednesday, 3:00pm – 6:00pm. full season produce, cut flowers, crafts. David Detmold, 413.863.4772

Waltham: Saturday, 9:30am – 2:30 pm, turkey products, mushrooms, jams, pastry, organic produce. Marc Rudnick, 781-894-0357

West Newbury/Laurel Grange: Saturday, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon, home grown or home made items. Peter Carter, 978-352-2986.

Worcester Common: Friday, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, specialty items. Andy O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

Worcester/Westside: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, specialty items. Andy O'Keefe, 508-753-7761.

For the following markets, contact Jeff Cole, Federation of Mass. Farmers' Markets, 781-893-8222 or 1-800-628-6336.

Boston City Hall Plaza, Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm Boston Copley Square, Tuesday and Friday, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm Cambridge/Central Square, Monday, Noon – 6:00 pm Framingham/Route 9, Thursday, 11:30 am – 5:00 pm New Bedford, Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Norwood, Tuesday, 1:00pm – 6:00 pm Springfield/Downtown, Friday, 10:00am – 2:00 pm.

Tufts Earthfest Farmers are invited to participate in a farmers' market as part of the Tufts University Earthfest on Monday, April 22 from 11:30 am –1:00 pm in the student campus center. This is a campus-wide free time, so there will be many students in attendance. There will be music and various forms of entertainment. Contact Erin Allweiss at 617-627-1235.

Agriculture Day at the State House

Massachusetts farmers and food producers: visit with your legislators on Massachusetts Agriculture Day at the State House, Wednesday, April 3rd, to discuss issues and legislation affecting their farms and communities.

The day includes a speaking program, awards to legislators, and a reception featuring Massachusetts grown farm products. The Mass. Agriculture Promotion Board (MAPB) coordinates "Ag Day" in conjunction with MDFA.

Ag Day 2002 Program:

- ●10:00 11:30 am: **Registration** outside of the Great Hall and Farmer/legislator meetings in respective offices.
- 11:30 am: Speaking Program at the Grand Staircase. Speakers: Invited: Governor Jane Swift, Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand, and MAPB chairman Ken Nicewicz. Agriculture Day Recognition Awards: the MAPB will recognize legislators who have supported local agriculture in the past year.
- •12:00 pm: A Taste of Massachusetts
 Reception in the Great Hall.

Grower organizations will present Bay State specialties and will staff information tables throughout the Great Hall. For more information, contact Mary Jordan, 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us or Rick LeBlanc, 508-792-7711x17, Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us.

CLASSIFIED

Red Fire Farm in Granby MA seeks small scale food processors to develop value-added products such as heirloom tomato salsa and jams from the farm's surplus. The new Greenfield food proc. center offers an opportunity to better utilize this food which goes to waste. Contact Ryan at 413-467-SOIL or redfirefarm@juno.com

Do you need mousers? The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society has a feral cat relocation program for barns. Cats are spayed or neutered, current on vaccinations. We relocate across the state. Also looking for the donation of a farm or land to house feral cat sanctuary on the N. Shore. Call 978-462-0760 or mrfrs@mrfrs.org. Ask for Stacy LeBaron.

We will help Massachusetts farmers with a free helpwanted ad in The Caretaker Gazette. We have Massachusetts subscribers who want to work on your farm. Contact: The Caretaker Gazette, PO Box 5887, Carefree, AZ 85377. 480-488-1970, www.caretaker.org.

WANTED - 3-pt rotary tiller - PTO driven. 48-54inches. Call 508-238-9948 or email thewelcomes@earthlink.net

FOR SALE: 75 Crested Blue Swedish ducks (some cross breeds & most w/rare tufted or crested heads). Good egg layers. All adult offspring from a MA DFA inspected flock. \$4.00 ea. 508-278-5017 or info@ArrowheadAcres.com.

Looking for Assist. Farm Mgr/Hort. Therapist for 2 ac. cert.organic farm, a therapeutic/vocational training site for the homeless. Mid Apr - mid Oct. 2002. Prev. exp. in ag. req. & wrkng w/special needs pop. pref. \$500/wk. Send resume, cover ltr to: Jean-Claude Bourrut, Long Island Shelter, P.O. Box 158, Boston, MA 02122, 617-534-2526 x304, Jcbourrut@bphc.org

Non-certified organically grown Russian Banana Fingerling Potatoes for seed or table. \$2.80/lb + shipping. Call Tim at Grateful Farm 508-553-3022 or afrmr@aol.com.

WANTED TO BUY: Apple grinder in good used condition for small hand crank cider press. Motorized or not. Call Mark, 413-367-0042 or email scaffnet@yahoo.com.

The Mass. Migrant Education Program provides educational services & referrals for health, housing, food, clothing & emergency svcs to children whose parents work in temporary ag & fishing activities. No cost to company or employees. Call Heather Greene, 978-657-8331 x20.

Empire Packaging Company: agricultural packaging that's based on New England traditions. Make us your packaging resource. 800-562-5520.

For sale: 80 gal metal water tank, \$50 or b/o; wood & alum. storm window, \$200 each; milk cooler air comp., \$50; oil furnace for camp or shed b/o, electric tester, \$20 each; farm and do-it-yourself books, b/o; canner, b/o. Leo Bedard, 181 Newmarket Rd., Rte. 108, Durham, NH.

For sale: Golden Comet pullets. Ready to lay early Feb. \$6.50 ea. 781-878-6920, leave message.

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS fit tire size 13.6-28. Well used but well maintained. Still have plenty of life left in them. \$40. South Face Farm 413-628-3268

Assistant Farm Manager: new perm. f/t pos. Production of mixed vegs on 150 acres for growing retail farm stand & restaurant sales. Exp. w/ IPM, planting, cultivating, harvesting and organizing projects. Vac, health, retirement. Verrill Farm, Concord, MA. Call David or Steve, 978-369-4494 or fax resume to 978-318-0300.

How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. Limit: 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one ad per business/individual per issue, unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting.

Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

Send typewritten or neatly printed copy to: Farm & Market Report, Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, 617-626-1752 fax: 617-626-1850, e-mail: Diane, Bædeker@state.ma.us

Farm & Market Report bi-monthly

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calendar 200

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Diane Baedeker Petit, Editor, Farm & Market Report

Self-Guided Greenhouse Tours for Industry Buyers

Come and See What's Growing in Massachusetts greenhouses! The UMass Extension Floriculture Program and the Mass. Flower Growers' Association are sponsoring "Open House Days" at participating wholesale greenhouses throughout Massachusetts on April 24, in Eastern Mass. and April 25, in Western Mass.

Family, wholesale greenhouses are inviting plant buyers including garden centers, farm stands, chain store buyers, plant brokers/salesman, landscapers, municipalities, and other industry buyers to visit their greenhouses. For more information contact Paul Lopes, 508-295-2212 ext. 24 or Tina Smith 413-545-5306, UMass Extension Floriculture Program or Bob Luczai, Mass. Flower Growers' Association, 978-952-0116. ◆

March 23 – **Growing Organic Apples** with Don MacLean, South Egremont, MA. 9:00 am- 4:00 pm. Part of the Practical Skills Workshop Series sponsored by NOFA/Mass. Cost \$35,NOFA Members \$30, Pre-registration required. Call Michael Faber at 413-528-4387 or email mfaber5@yahoo.com.

March 30 – **Blueberry Production** with Connie and Ron Maribett, Kingston, MA. 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Potluck lunch. Part of the Practical Skills Workshop Series sponsored by NOFA/Mass. Cost \$20,NOFA Members \$15, Pre-registration required. Call Michael Faber at 413-528-4387 or email mfaber5@yahoo.com.

<u>April 3</u> – **Agriculture Day at the State House**. Contact Mary Jordan, 617-626-1750, Mary.Jordan@state.ma.us or Rick LeBlanc, 508-792-7712, x17, Richard.LeBlanc@state.ma.us.

<u>April 6</u> – **Statewide Rabies Vaccination Day**. Get the family pet vaccinated at a low-cost clinic in one of many participating cities and towns across the state. Visit www.mass.gov/dfa for a list of towns, or contact Mike Cahill, 617-626-1794, Michael.Cahill@state.ma.us.

<u>April 6</u> – **Small Scale Dairying** with Pat Stewart Ashburnham, MA. 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Part of the Practical Skills Workshop Series sponsored by NOFA/Mass. Cost \$35, NOFA Members \$30, Pre-registration required. Call Michael Faber at 413-528-4387 or email mfaber5@yahoo.com.

April 21 – Introduction to Growing and Using Medicinal Herbs with Diana Riddle and Tony Lemos Shelburne Falls, MA. 10:00 am- 4:00 pm. Part of the Practical Skills Workshop Series sponsored by NOFA/Mass. Cost \$35, NOFA Members \$30, Pre-registration required. Call Michael Faber at 413-528-4387 or email mfaber5@yahoo.com.

<u>June 15</u> – **Music in the Orchard**, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm at Nashoba Valley Winery, Bolton. Celebrate the season with a day of fun for the whole family. Live music, winery tours and tastings. Call 978-779-5521 or visit www.nashobawinery.com.

Greenhouse Grower Pesticide Training

The UMass Extension Floriculture Program is sponsoring Pesticide Training for growers of greenhouse crops on March 19. The training will be held in two locations concurrently: in Amherst at the Mass Venture Building in Hadley and at Bridgewater State College from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The training will concentrate on insect and disease control for greenhouse crops. The featured speaker will be Dr. Kevin Heniz, Assistant Professor of Entomology from Texas A&M University, via a video conference from College Station, Texas.

Contact Paul Lopes at 508-295-2212 x24, lopes@umext.umass.edu, or Tina Smith at 413-545-5306, tsmith@umext.umass.edu. Pesticide recertification credits will be available in all private categories. ◆

03/02

Address service requested